

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price

# District 3 Slate

April 2009

Third District, County of San Diego

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## County Gets Jump On Fire Season

### *Vegetation Management Key*

**T**here is no “season” for fire in San Diego County. The threat of a catastrophic wildfire exists throughout the year. As the heat of summer approaches, fire officials, regional planners, county authorities and the Board of Supervisors are working on a comprehensive plan to protect people and property. Knowledge gained following the 2003 Cedar and 2007 Witch Creek conflagrations is being used to better prepare and defend the county.

“We cannot avoid wildfire, due in part to the weather and terrain that exists in San Diego County. But, we can work to limit its impact, to minimize the damage, and dramatically reduce the risk to life,” explained Vice Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price, whose Third District saw considerable damage during the 2007 wildfire. “It begins with being proactive, especially recognizing the factors why certain structures or neighborhoods burned when others did not. It means greater regional cooperation, such as allowing fire-fighting aircraft to fly at night.”



“Changes in our building codes making structures better able to stand up to fire (following the 2003 Cedar blaze) helped when the Witch Creek wildfire occurred. While that fire took a dramatic toll in terms of houses burned, especially in Rancho Bernardo and west Escondido, follow-up analysis found that homes built to the new standards mostly survived.”

The focus for 2009, explained Vice Chairwoman Slater-Price, begins with vegetation management. The adoption of the Combustible Vegetation Ordinance expanded the defensible space around a structure to 100 feet and clarified “weed” to include combustible materials such as shrubs, green waste and dead or dying trees.

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### NEW COMPUTERS FOR SB LIBRARY

Vice Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price (right) celebrates the unveiling of 12 new laptop computers now in use at the Solana Beach Library. This doubles the number available for public use. The laptops were part of a \$25,000 project, paid for by the county, which included building improvements. The library is staffed by the county library system but owned by the San Dieguito Union High School District. The computers offer Internet access, word processing and the San Diego County Library catalog. Joining Vice Chairwoman Slater-Price for the event was Solana Beach Councilman Joe Kellejian (left).

### SMALL BUSINESS FORUM:

#### UNTANGLING THE MORTGAGE MESS

PRESENTED BY

VICE CHAIRWOMAN PAM SLATER-PRICE  
AND THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

DATE: APRIL 23, 2009

TIME: 11:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M.

PLACE: AMN HEALTHCARE

12400 HIGH BLUFF DRIVE

SAN DIEGO, CA 92130

RSVP: (619) 531-5533

\* LUNCH PROVIDED

#### FORUM PANELISTS

+ MODERATOR: APPASWAMY "VINO" PAJANOR,

HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES COLLABORATIVE

+ DR. DENNIS GUSEMAN, CSU SAN MARCOS + MIKE PETERS,

BANK OF ESCONDIDO + MYRNA B. PASCUAL, U.S. DEPT.

OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT + YAMILA AYAD,

SAN DIEGO CHARITABLE REAL ESTATE FOUNDATION

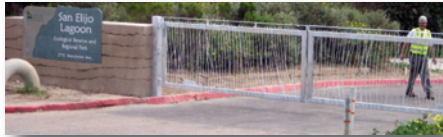
+ JOHN MORRELL, HIGGS FLETCHER &amp; MACK

IN ASSOCIATION WITH HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES COLLABORATIVE • PARTICIPATING CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE: CARBIDE, ENCINITAS, ESCONDIDO, LEUCAR, SAN DIEGO COASTAL, SAN DIEGO NORTH, SOLANA BEACH • MAINSTREET ASSOCIATIONS: BEMA, LEUCARIA 181 • DEL MAR VILLAGE ASSOCIATION • ESCONDIDO DOWNTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION • SAN DIEGO NORTH BIDC • WORLD TRADE CENTER SAN DIEGO



## AROUND AND ABOUT IN THE THIRD DISTRICT

### News of Note



The new monument sign inviting visitors to the San Elijo Lagoon Preserve has been installed at the site on Manchester Drive in Cardiff-by-the-Sea. The gate was designed to mirror the look of the reeds a visitor would see in the wetlands. Vice Chairwoman Slater-Price arranged for funding of the security gate.

### Appeal Time Is Running Out

Owners who believe their homes have declined in value have until May 30 to file an application for review of the assessed value of their property. Owners are advised to be wary of any solicitations that charge for services, as the county Assessor's Office conducts such reviews for free as part of its duties. Information is available by calling (858) 505-6262 or at [www.sdarcc.com](http://www.sdarcc.com).

### Water Testing To Continue

As the summer beach season approaches, county environmental health officials are monitoring the water quality of local beaches under a plan approved by the Board of Supervisors and supported by Vice Chairwoman Slater-Price. The state's budget crisis threatened to delay the start of the program, which has been operated since 1999.



Sixty samples will be taken and analyzed each week from beaches and bays along San Diego's coastline. Alerts and advisories will warn the public of elevated bacteria levels, sewage spills or urban runoff.

### Bee Attack Isolated Incident

After bees swarmed a La Mesa neighborhood, stinging half a dozen people, county entomologist Dr. David Kellum reminds residents such incidents are rare; however, the County of San Diego does not remove bees and urges residents to contact a pest control company. Steps to bee-proof a home and other pest-control information is found on the Department of Agriculture Weights and Measure website at [www.sdcounty.ca.gov/awm/ipm\\_public.html](http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/awm/ipm_public.html).



### TAKING A STAND AGAINST CYBERBULLYING

Catherine "Cati" Grant, a sophomore at Scripps Ranch High School and former cyberbully victim, created her own website called CatiCares.com to raise awareness about cyber bullying. Her efforts were recognized out of nearly 20,000 young people nationwide as a 2009 top youth volunteer in California by the 15th annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. Acknowledging her positive influence in her community, Vice Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price, accompanied by Bob "Mr. Scripps Ranch" Dingeman, presented Catherine with a county proclamation honoring her effort to prevent such damaging online activities.

## County Is Honored for Using Green Technology to Save Taxpayer Dollars

From a recirculating water filtration system that zaps harmful bacteria at an aquatic playground to the "cool roof" and solar panels on a new long-term care facility, the County of San Diego is finding new ways to protect the environment and save taxpayer money. The California Center for Sustainable Energy honored the County with a San Diego Excellence in Energy, or SANDEE, Award for organizational achievement.

Among the county's "green" innovations:

- The county's only free water playground at Hilton Head County Park in El Cajon, where a re-circulating water filtration system uses broad-spectrum ultraviolet

light and chlorinated disinfection to kill harmful bacteria, such as *cryptosporidium* and *e. coli*. Savings: \$9,217 annually.

- The replacement of six 45- to 80-ton rooftop air conditioning units with gas-fire heating at the Health Services Complex on Rosecrans Street with a 500-ton modular, ultra-efficient, all-variable speed chiller.

Savings: \$220,000 a year; \$260,000 one-time utility incentive payment.

- The new Edgemoor Skilled Nursing Facility, featuring climate control and energy-efficient technology, including occupancy sensors, solar panels and extra insulation. Savings: \$207,000 a year on utility bills, \$4.1 million on annual operational costs; \$75,000 one-time utility incentive payment.



## AROUND AND ABOUT IN THE THIRD DISTRICT



### SHOWING 'HEART' ...

More than 600 ninth-grade students at San Pasqual High School in Escondido will learn how to "Spring to the Rescue" of someone whose heart suddenly stops. The students took part in the second Heart Safe San Diego County event as part of a campaign led by Vice Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price to increase the number of San Diegans capable of providing bystander CPR - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation. "Sudden cardiac arrest can happen to anyone, anywhere," Slater-Price told the class (above). "You can be in a movie theater and someone could collapse. And because you know the steps, which are 1 - Call 911 and 2 - Start CPR, you could save a life." Students took the kits home - which include a "mini-Annie" resuscitation mannequin (left) and an instructional DVD - to train a minimum of three family members and friends as part of their health class homework. Nationally, more than 166,000 out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest deaths occur every year. "Despite widespread awareness that CPR saves lives, only 15 to 30 percent of cardiac arrest victims receive CPR," said Dr. James Dunford, board president, American Heart Association - San Diego Division. "For every minute without CPR, the survival rate for cardiac arrest victims falls by 7 to 10 percent."



## Tourism, Community, Public Safety Goals of Grant Program

**T**argeting elder abuse, promoting the joy of music, preserving the "gift of life," and encouraging tourism and job growth are some of the results behind the approval of more than a dozen community project grants awarded by the county Board of Supervisors to non-profit organizations. The grants were recommended by Vice Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price.

"These most-worthwhile grants help these organizations to directly meet the needs of the people they serve, from students in the Third District eager to gain a finer appreciation of the arts, to emergency personnel who ensure this region has a stable blood supply that can be accessed when a disaster strikes," explained Vice Chairwoman Slater-Price. "In the process these grants help promote a sense of community

and awareness of our natural and civic resources."

Grants were awarded to:

- **Operation Homefront San Diego** - Helping the families of our armed service, the Vice Chairwoman awarded \$5,000 to offset the costs of school supplies necessary for this August's "Backpack Brigade." A second grant of \$2,000 was awarded to offset the costs of food, location rental and professional services that are part of the Easter Basket program that also targets families of troops serving overseas.
- **San Diego Blood Bank** - \$10,000 to assist with the cost of purchasing a new bloodmobile and refurbishing the current vehicle.
- **Elder Law & Advocacy** - \$5,000 to cover the costs of marketing and travel that are necessary to implement the upcoming Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention campaign.
- **Coastal Communities Concert Band**

**Foundation** - Playing concerts in communities along the coast brings people together. But it also helps the appreciation of music. So \$5,000 will cover the cost of student admissions for a May 17 performance, and toward renting and/or purchasing musical instruments.

- **Carmel Mountain Ranch/Sabre Springs Recreation Council** - \$2,000 to cover related costs of hosting three outdoor Saturday concerts that take place June 20, July 12 and Aug. 8 at Carmel Mountain Ranch Community Park, 10152 Rancho Carmel Drive.

- **San Diego Symphony** - \$25,000 for student tickets that will be given to deserving youth in the Third District so that they can attend the March 25 and 26 Young People's Concerts, as well as another performance slated for November.

- **Lamb's Players Theatre** - \$10,000 to assist

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## AROUND THE THIRD DISTRICT

### GRANTS

*Continued from Page 3*

with the costs of repair and replacement of the Coronado Resident Stage light board, microphones and ticket printers.

- **Escondido Chamber of Commerce** – \$5,000 to reduce the cost of marketing, supplies and venue rental for the annual chamber Challenge Golf Tournament fund-raiser for charity that takes place Aug. 28 at the Vineyard Golf Course in Escondido.

- **San Diego Dance Theater** – \$20,000 to cover costs of professional services necessary to stage the Jean Isaacs Retrospective Concert that takes place May 16 and 17 at San Diego State University.

- **Vision of Children Foundation** – This organization helps legally blind children in so many ways. Five thousand dollars will offset costs of staging the eighth annual concert fund-raiser, "Concert for a Cure," that is slated for May 2 at the Irwin M. Jacobs Qualcomm Hall. Vice Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price awards the grants with the knowledge that it will be used to raise much more funding from donors throughout the region to help the legally blind.

- **Escondido Children's Museum** – \$5,000 for the cost of design and construction of its "Water and Watershed Conservation" exhibition at 380 N. Escondido Blvd, Studio 1. The garden is a teaching tool that hopefully will show people how to conserve water in their gardens.

- **San Diego State Alumni Association** – \$15,000 for audio/visual equipment necessary

for the production of the annual "The Monty's" community recognition awards.

- **Kiwanis Club of Del Mar** – \$2,500 for the popular 14th annual Ugly Dog Contest fund-raiser that took place March 8 at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. The funds raised go toward worth-



while charities that do good work, and the event itself brings the community together.

- **Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego** – \$10,000 for installation and construction costs to stage "Mix: Nine San Diego Architects and Designers" exhibition that runs between May 21 and Sept. 6 at the museum's La Jolla branch at 700 Prospect St.

- **San Dieguito Heritage Museum** – \$4,500 to rent equipment, provide entertainment and cover marketing of the annual Deep Pit Bar-B-Que community event that serves as the annual fund-raiser for the Encinitas-based historic preservation organization and helps to preserve the history of the area.

- **UC San Diego Foundation** – \$15,000 for supplies, location rental and entertainment necessary to stage the annual "Heart of San Diego" gala that took place March 21.

- **San Diego Museum of Art** – \$10,000 for renovation and reinstallation costs of the Galleries of European Painting located at 1450 El Prado.

### FIRE

*Continued from Page 1*

Other programs to reduce the fuel wild-fires need include a partnering of the county with Cal FIRE, U.S. Forest Service and local fire districts that conduct about 15,000 inspections annually, and FAST - Forest Area Safety Task Force - that identified nine target areas containing dangerous fuel loads and solutions for reducing the risk of fire.

Streamlining of building codes clearly explained to a developer the strategies for building a "fire-safe" residence. In addition, a residential project now must submit a Fire Protection Plan that answers specific questions, such as "How close are emergency responders?" and "What water supplies are available?" while addressing issues of defensible space, long-term vegetation management and ignition-resistant construction.

"This foreplanning is crucial for this county to minimize the damage that occurs during a Santa Ana wind-driven wildfire," said Vice Chairwoman Slater-Price. "This Board continues to search for ways to improve codes and policies that reduce the damage that occurs when fire threatens our homes."

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